

## ABSTRACT

A method for automatically assigning an IP address when a new user is connected to a network. The new user monitors the network regarding at least one previously allocated valid IP address in a first phase while automatically creating an IP address that differs from the previously allocated IP address in a second phase, the address being only slightly modified, typically only the last byte thereof, the first three bytes being taken over from the previously allocated IP address that was found in the network. The availability of the newly created IP address is then verified by a request in the network, whereupon the new user assigns the IP address to him/herself if the newly created IP address is available, or the creation or verification of a new IP address is repeated if the IP address is not available.